WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optically compensatory polarizer comprising:

a polarizer including an absorption type polarizing element, and transparent protective layers provided on opposite sides of said absorption type polarizing element, each of said transparent protective layers exhibiting an in-plane retardation of not larger than 10 nm and a thicknesswise retardation in a range of from 30 to 70 nm; and

at least one optically compensating film laminated on at least one of opposite surfaces of said polarizer so that a slow axis of each optically compensating film crosses an absorption axis of said polarizer perpendicularly, said optically compensating film exhibiting an in-plane retardation in a range of from 80 to 200 nm and $Nz = (nx - nz)/(nx - ny)$ in a range of from -0.2 to 0.2 in which nz is a refractive index in a direction of a Z axis expressing a direction of the thickness of said optically compensating film, nx is a refractive index in a direction of an X axis expressing a direction of said optically compensating film in a sheet plane perpendicular to said Z axis, ny is a refractive index in a direction of a Y axis expressing a direction of said optically compensating film perpendicular both to said Z axis and to said X axis, and nx and ny satisfy the relation $nx > ny$.

2. A liquid-crystal display device comprising:

a liquid-crystal cell; and

one optically compensatory polarizer according to claim 1 and provided on at least one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal cell.